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Newsletter

TECHNOLOGY LESSONS 4 TEACHERS



[HTTP://ANIMOTO.COM/EDUCATION](http://animoto.com/education)

Animoto turns pictures & videos into stunning movies. As an educator, you can apply for a free Animoto Plus account, which allows you to & your students to create longer videos for FREE. You will get a promo code once you apply for an account that your students enter when creating their accounts. Best of all, to create student accounts under your teacher account just add an "+#" to the end of your email. Example, *akuhr+1@pcsd.org*, *akuhr+2@pcsd.org*, etc...

What makes Animoto special? Select images, text, music, click, & go. Animoto automatically analyzes music, photos, & video clips, & combines a custom video. This allows your students free to focus on the content & narrative

of their videos rather than the technical aspect of editing. You can easily download the videos to your computer or share them in an email, blog, or website.

Ideas for the classroom,

- Create a commercial or PSA,
- Create video flashcards for vocabulary,
- Create news briefs about historical or current events.



See an example at

<http://animoto.com/play/Oy1gqGp9TyxP04MKeZaE1w>.

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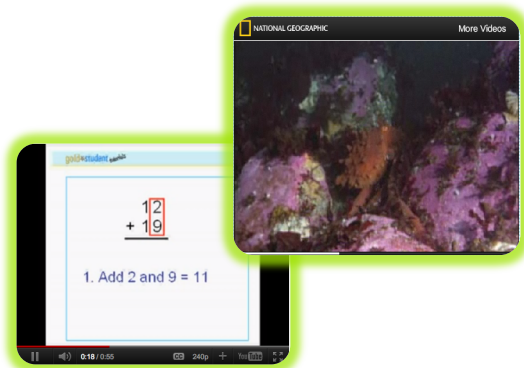
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[HTTP://WATCHKNOWLEARN.ORG](http://WATCHKNOWLEARN.ORG)

WatchKnowLearn is a great alternative to *YouTube*. They have **FREE** quality educational videos that cover all major topics from elementary to secondary, & are kid safe. It is easy to find a video by selecting a subject & grade level. Many of these videos are not from *YouTube* & can be viewable by your students. *WatchKnowLearn* has indexed over 20,000 educational videos, & placed them into a directory of over 3,000 categories.

They are beginning a new project to develop a version of *WatchKnowLearn* with Spanish-language navigation. Another new project is the **WatchKnowLearn Classroom**. This will

allow teachers to create their own classroom pages of videos. Teachers can pick their own subdomains for *WatchKnowLearn Classrooms*. For example, I could create a classroom at *mrsanderson.watchknowlearn.org* & send my students to that page to watch the videos I've selected for them.



Teacher Feature: JIM OLSEN

Mr. Olsen is the 8th grade Earth Science teacher at Plattsmouth Middle School. He uses technology in his classroom on a regular basis. Something new that Mr. Olsen is doing this year is taking full advantage of the District's new Website. On the new site, which will be fully operational in January, Mr. Olsen is able to post announcements, activities, & homework on his staff page. Students and parents can easily access this page by going to www.pcsd.org & following the links at the middle school.

Other uses of technology in science are the use of webquests, multimedia blogs, & *Gaggle*. Mr. Olsen posts questions on a file & then links the websites on his *Fusion Page*. This allows students to quickly get to a site where

they can find answers for different science topics. Students have had to blog about topics on the moon & space exploration. Mr. Olsen can also get assignments in the form of attachments from student *Gaggle* accounts. This works really well for an assignment completed at home that can be sent electronically.

A final way that Mr. Olsen uses technology is in making an *iMovie* for the Plattsmouth baseball team. Photos taken throughout the year (a majority from Master Sergeant Eudy & parents) can be put together in a slide show to music. This is a great way to show highlights from the year that players can keep forever.

ActivInspire: GRID DESIGNER



Grids are useful when you are constructing a flipchart, or when you want to align or measure objects precisely. They work over any kind of background. They hover over the background layer, & placed underneath all objects on the flipchart page. Even if you chose a grid from the **Resource Browser**, you can still size & edit it using the **Grid Designer**.

There are two ways to apply a grid to a page.

- *Option 1 – Resource Browser*
 - Select the grid design & drag it to the page.
- *Option 2 – Right-click (Control + Click)*
 - Right-click on the page, & select

Hide Grid to make the grid visible. Right-click again & choose **Grid Designer**.

The Grid Designer allows you to snap objects to the grid, choose your scales, add multiple levels, where to start & stop X & Y, & choose grid & line style.

Ideas for using grids,

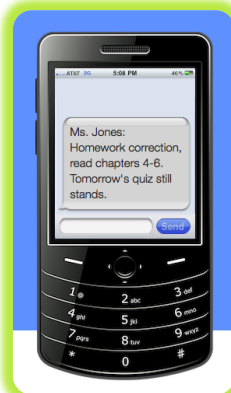
- Create guidelines to assist with drawing three-dimensional objects.
- Position objects accurately when designing a presentation, & ensure objects are lined up in the correct place during drag & drop activities.



[HTTP://REMIND101.COM](http://remind101.com)

Communicate with your students, on their devices, on their time, on their terms - text messaging!

Remind 101 allows teachers, coaches, & activity sponsors to create classes, have students register for your class from their cell phones, & then you can send out text messages with homework reminders, meeting times, etc. Benefits include: neither party has to disclose their phone number, students without phone/unlimited texting may sign up to receive emails, parents can subscribe as well to stay in the loop, easy set-up.





WWW.ZAMZAR.COM

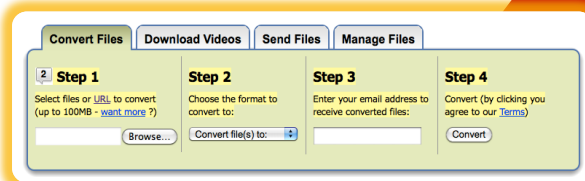
Free conversion between document, image, music, video, audio, eBook, compressed, & CAD formats. No download or account required. The site provides a large conversion chart illustrating what types of file formats may be converted. Easy to use! Works on most YouTube videos!

Example: m4v - MPEG-4 Video File converts to,

- 3gp - 3GPP Multimedia File
- 3g2 - 3GPP2 Multimedia File
- aac - Advanced Audio Coding File
- ac3 - AC3 Audio File
- avi - Windows video file
- flv - Flash video
- ipad - MPEG-4 (H264) Video File
- iphone - MPEG-4 (H264) Video File
- ipod - MPEG-4 Video File
- mov - Apple

QuickTime Movie

- mp3 - Compressed audio file
- mpg - Moving Picture Experts Group File
- wav - Windows audio file
- wmv - Windows Media Video



Magnetic Poetry

[WWW.MAGNETICPOETRY.COM/
KIDS-AREA/](http://WWW.MAGNETICPOETRY.COM/KIDS-AREA/)



The **Magnetic Poetry** website offers students the opportunity to have some word fun. **Magnetic Poetry's Kids' Poetry Page** provides a bank of words that students can drag onto a blank canvas to create poems or stories. There are four word kits that students can pick from; *First Words*, *Kids' Kit*, *Best Friends*, & *Story Maker*. After creating a poem or story students can save their creations online or email them to family & friends.

iPod Apps



ELEMENTARY

K12 TIMED READING PRACTICE

– Lets readers practice fluency, & the ability to read smoothly & quickly. The students read into the iPod & it tracks a reader's stories, words per minute, percent above or below average reading rates, & what's next on the reading list. The lite version has access to K-4.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

NUMBER LINE –

Students in 7th grade love this program. It gives the students a combination of fractions, decimals, & percents to put in order on a number line. The correctly placed numbers turn green on the number line & incorrectly placed numbers turn red. Watch as your students start to compete to see who could get the highest score & the highest level. Also available on Elementary iPods.



HIGH SCHOOL

3D BRAIN – Explore regions of the brain with 3D depictions of their locations, functions, &

associations, disorders, case studies, & research. It allows you to explore a densely populated & difficult to access part of anatomy. Concise, although basic info, good for introductory exploration &/or as a pathway to selecting a region of the brain to explore more closely.



WolframAlpha™

WWW.WOLFRAMALPHA.COM

Wolfram Alpha is known as a computation & statistics search engine, but it is so much more. I prefer to think of it as a Knowledge Engine. It's not an index of the web like Google or Bing or a replacement, it's an index of information. It is not a replacement of Google, but it is one of the smartest search engines available. It presents results in a clear easy to read format, & it can compare two different search results.

Instead of searching the web like Google or Bing, it does computations based on a vast collection of built-in data, algorithms, & methods. Wolfram Alpha's goal is to build on the achievements of science & math to provide a single source that can be relied on for definitive answers to factual queries.

To really understand how this application works, try typing in your birthday to see what you get. You may notice right away that you get information right away without having to search through webpages as you would on Google or Bing. Now try typing in "1 Apple, 1 Orange." What did you get? It compared the nutritional information of an apple & orange. Feel free to search examples or choose explore a random search.

There is such a range of applications that it can be almost difficult to understand all of its uses in the classroom. **Wolfram Alpha for Educators**

(www.wolframalpha.com/educators/) is a collection of free lesson plans, examples of, & ideas for using this site in the classroom. The lesson plans are arranged in three categories – mathematics, science, & social studies. All of the lesson plans are available as free PDFs.